

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 2 as follows:

In conventional densitometry, such as using the Cliniscan® manufactured by Helena Laboratories Corporation of Beaumont, Texas, there is a physical scanning of the sample, after the electrophoresis and any staining steps, as part of the densitometry process, and the optical density of each part of the image is determined. In the present invention, scanning occurs in the computer memory, *i.e.*, there is virtual scanning of the image. By way of example and not by way of limitation, a virtual "slit" of a given size may be used, *e.g.*, 4.0 mm high x 0.4 mm wide. This "slit" is equivalent to 31 image elements in height and 3 image elements in width. Thus at any one time the slit sees a subset of the array which is 93 elements or pixels. The optical data for all 93 elements are averaged to provide a resulting "value". In some preferred embodiments, the virtual slit has a first dimension at least five times greater than the second dimension.

Please amend the last full paragraph on page 5, as follows:

Referring next to Figure 2, after the image of the sample has been digitized and stored in the computer memory, as previously mentioned, the virtual slit is used to scan the image in memory. In Figure 2, an array of 49 pixels (7x7) is illustrated although, in practice, an array of 1040x1040 pixels is preferred. The virtual slit is illustrated as a rectangular box 5 pixels high by 2 pixels wide. Again, the virtual slit preferably has a first dimension at least five times greater than the second dimension, and a preferred virtual slit is 31x3.